

W.V. Hammer
Ford - Edison



Mr Charles L. Clarke.
Consulting Engineer General Elec Co
Schenectady
N. Y.

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Mr. William F. Hammer

THE SHELTON
NEW YORK

Copy for
Chas. L. Clarke
kindly let Mr. Anderson see this
(can show a copy for him)

The Shelton
40th Street & Lexington Avenue

N. Y. City.

August 13th, 1928.

Rec'd 8/14/28
C. L. Clarke

Chas. L. Clarke

Mr. John W. Lieb,
Vice-Pres. & Gen'l Mgr.,
New York Edison Company,
124 East 15th St.,
New York City.

My dear Lieb:-

Yours of August 8th, 1928 received
with enclosed copy of letter to Mr. Clark of same
date, for which I thank you.

Mr. Gaston Plantiff told me of seeing
you at your office the day before you sailed, which
was I believe May 19th, 1928.

On May 16th, 1928, I met Mr. Henry Ford
at the Kodak Meeting of the Franklin Institute and he
asked me to come to his hotel after the meeting. He
then told me further of his museum plans of which he
had spoken to me at Baltimore early in October 1927,
at which time he asked me to come to Dearborn to see
him, and he elaborated on his plans for a great Memorial
to Mr. Edison upon which he said he was ready to spend
\$10,000,000 or \$50,000,000 if necessary. I told Mr.
Ford that on account of the relations of the Edison
Pioneers and the Association of Edison Elec. Ill. Co.,
it would be desirable to see certain people regarding
his plans, mentioning your good self among others and
Mr. Scheffler whom I said I have just seen off on his
steamer for Europe. Mr. Ford asked Mr. Plantiff who
was present to see you at once and asked me to write to
Scheffler in Europe. This I promised to do and also
to see certain people and write to others. Mr. Ford
asked me to have breakfast with him next day, (May 17th,
1928,) at which time he further outlined his plans and
asked me to go with him to inspect Independence Hall
and grounds, as he hoped to build a replica of it at
Dearborn as an entrance to the Edison Memorial on land
which he had already secured adjoining the Ford air-
port. We spent some time inspecting Independence Hall
and grounds and Mr. Ford told the custodian he would
have his architect come to Philadelphia to study the

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buildings and plans, and he then said he would like me to accompany him to Chester, Pa. where he wished to inspect his new automobile assembly plant.

On our way to Chester we stopped for lunch at the Chester Golf Club and as lunch was not ready Mr. Ford suggested we walk all the way around the club course, as he wanted to talk with me. We then made a second tour around the grounds before going into lunch with Messrs. Plantiff, Campsall and the manager of the Chester plant. Later we inspected the assembly plant and then returned by auto to Philadelphia where I saw Mr. Ford off on his train, remaining until a late train for New York.

For your information, I might add that I had been having considerable correspondence with Mr. Ford in 1927 regarding a matter affecting the Franklin Institute and its interests, and at Baltimore, Md. on October 10th, 1927, I explained this matter in detail to Mr. Ford when we met at the "Iron Horse Centennial of Transportation" of the B & O Railroad. After quite a talk Mr. Ford told me something of his museum plan and asked me to come to see him at Dearborn in two weeks time.

I went to Detroit and Dearborn as arranged telegraphing him I was on my way and would await word from him at the Hotel Statler, Detroit, on October 24th, 1927. I had had a talk with Mr. Edison before going to Dearborn, and took a personal letter from Mr. Edison to Mr. Ford. I showed this letter with various other matters to Mr. Frank Campsall, Mr. Ford's assistant secretary, telling him that I had come to Dearborn at Mr. Ford's request, but during my stay of nearly a week I never saw Mr. Ford or could get in touch with him and he told me later (May 17th, 1928) that he had not known that I was in Detroit, had never seen Mr. Edison's letters, my telegram nor my letters and even one which I had sent in Mrs. Ford's care upon my return to New York he said he had not seen and did not believe that Mrs. Ford had ever seen it.

I saw Mr. Ford with Mr. & Mrs. Edison and others at the Ford Auto Show at the Madison Square Garden January 10th, 1928, and asked him if I could see him for a few minutes. He not knowing that I had been

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to Dearborn thought I was desirous of speaking further about the Franklin Institute matter, of which I had spoken to him at Baltimore in October. He replied "I do not wish to discuss the matter." I, of course, thought he referred to the matters I had gone to Dearborn to see him about at his request, and I was naturally puzzled. I next saw Mr. Ford on May 10th, 1928, at the Franklin Institute, as already explained.

Regarding the proposed conferences mentioned in your letter to Clark, my own feeling is that the whole matter should be thrashed out in the open before the Past Presidents of both the Edison Ass. of Elec. Ill. Cos. and the Edison Pioneers, and the present officers of both organizations and with Mr. Edison and Mr. Ford present.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the various gentlemen to whom you sent copies of your letter to Mr. Clark.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM J. HAMMER

WJH/MD

P.S. - I enclose herewith a copy of the letter I subsequently sent to Mr. Clark which you would have received, but you were still in Europe. I had quite a number of additional copies made intending to send them to others, but concluded that while I believed I understood Mr. Ford's viewpoints and desires, it seemed to me advisable to discuss with Mr. Ford whom I would see very shortly the matter of sending a circular letter to all of the members of the Edison Pioneers and Assn. of Elec. Ill. Cos. and perhaps certain others.

Mr. Ford told me on May 17th that he would see me again at the Edison Medal Dinner in New York the following week, but he was unable to be present. I expected to see him shortly thereafter in New York or in Dearborn, as Mr. Plaintiff said he expected that I would have to go to Dearborn at once and said Mr. Ford would probably call me by long distance 'phone from Dearborn. Since then I have not seen or heard from Mr. Ford, and doubt if he has seen a letter which I sent him to Dearborn.